

## Message Text

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65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 750

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MILI, GE, WB, EB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL POLICY IN GDR, VISA PROCEDURES

REF: (A) STATE 40328; (B) BONN 2752; (C) USBERLIN 473

1. THE EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED REF (C), CONCERNING TRAVEL IN THE GDR BY MEMBERS OF USBER UNDER THE NEW ALLIED TRAVEL POLICY (REFS (A) AND (B)). WE HAVE ALSO SPOKEN WITH OUR FRENCH AND BRITISH COLLEAGUES IN EAST BERLIN TO DETERMINE WHAT THEIR PRACTICES ARE WITH RESPECT TO OBTAIN-INDIVIDUAL VISAS TO FACILITATE SIMILAR TRAVEL BY MEMBERS OF THEIR MISSIONS IN WEST BERLIN.

2. THE FRENCH CURTAIL TRAVEL. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN AN OCCASION TO OBTAIN GDR VISAS. THE FRENCH COUNSELOR TELLS US THAT A SECOND PASSPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A GDR VISA, AS IT WOULD BE FRENCH PRACTICE TO AVOID PLACING SUCH A VISA IN A PASSPORT CONTAINING THE COMMANDANT'S STAMP. A MAJOR FRENCH CONCERN, AND ONE ALSO VOICED BY THE BRITISH, IS THE POTENTIALLY PRICKLY QUESTION OF CONSULAR JURISDICTION SHOULD SOME MISHAP OCCUR.

3. THE BRITISH COUNSELOR ADVISES US THAT THERE HAS SO FAR  
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BEEN ONE TRIP BY THE COMMANDANT'S WIFE, WHO RECEIVED A

VISA OBTAINED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, AND WAS PROVIDED AN EMBASSY CAR AND EMBASSY ESCORT OFFICER FOR A SHORT JOURNEY WITHIN THE GDR. THE ONLY OTHER CASE INVOLVED THE VISIT OF A GROUP OF BRITISH WIVES TO POTSDAM. THEY WENT IN A BUS AND WERE BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT ISSUED VISAS AT A BERLIN-GDR CROSSING POINT (DREWITZ) REQUESTED FROM THE MFA BY THE EMBASSY. THE BRITISH ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FROM LONDON FOR SUCH TRAVEL (AS IN ALL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES). AND THEY NORMALLY MUST TRAVEL IN PAIRS OF TWO AUTOMOBILES.

4. WE PERCEIVE NO OBJECTION TO OBTAINING VISAS FOR USBER PERSONNEL BY MEANS OF A NOTE TO THE MFA, IF THIS PROCEDURE IS DEEMED BEST BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FACILITATE SUCH TRAVEL.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT TRAVEL BY USBER PERSONNEL IN THE GDR SHOULD OCCUR UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS, INsofar AS POSSIBLE, AS THAT OF OTHER OFFICIAL USG PERSONNEL TRAVELING IN EASTERN COUNTRIES. PRIOR NOTIFICATION UNDER THE PROVISION OF CA-2274 OF AUGUST 25, 1965 AND STATE 272446 OF DECEMBER 12, 1974 WOULD THEREFORE SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR USBER PERSONNEL. GROVE

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